

Probation and Parole District Offices

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Louisiana Department of
Public Safety and Corrections

Division of Probation
and Parole

Matters of Interest
to
Victims of Crime



Bobby Jindal
Governor

James M. Le Blanc
Secretary

Eugenie Powers
Probation and Parole Director

Additional Information Available
www.doc.louisiana.gov

A crime has been committed and you were the victim.

The state's constitution and statutes provide you the right to participate directly in the justice system. Justice system agencies need your help for this to happen. This brochure offers information about the assistance you can expect from officers of the Division of Probation and Parole, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and the help they need from you.

A commitment to public safety guides the Department. In support of that commitment, officers of the Division of Probation and Parole are charged broadly with (1) supervising the actions of felony offenders who are in the community on probation, parole, and sometimes work release, (2) supporting other justice system decision-makers by providing investigative reports about the offender, his offense, and its impact on others, and (3) collecting fines, fees, and restitution.

Your Responsibilities

- C Notify your local law enforcement agency about the crime.
- C Stay in contact with local law enforcement and, after charges have been filed, with the District Attorney's office.
- C Make sure your address and telephone number are current and on file in the District Attorney's office.
- C If you are registered with the Department's Crime Victims Services Bureau, make sure your address and telephone number are current there too.
- C Return calls from Probation and Parole Officers. Even though talking about the crime may be painful or unpleasant, officers need to hear the experiences, opinions, and expectations you want them to include in various investigations, such as Presentence Investigations for the Court, Pre-parole Investigations for the Parole Board, and Clemency Investigations for the Pardon Board and Governor's Office.
- C If you believe you are owed restitution payments from the offender, keep copies of receipts and bills so that you will be able to document expenses related to the crime.

Responsibilities of Probation and Parole Officers

When an offender is placed on probation, officers

- Conduct a Pre-sentence Investigation when ordered by the Court.
- Supervise the individual according to rules imposed by the Court. Only the Court can set, change, or delete conditions of probation supervision.
- Collect monthly restitution payments ordered by the Court.
- Notify the Court if a probationer falls behind 60 days or more in making restitution payments. The judge then may or may not order the probationer into court and order sanctions ranging from reprimand to revocation.

After an offender serves prison time, officers

- Conduct a Pre-parole Investigation if the Parole Board schedules a parole hearing.
- Contact victims for their views regarding release and restitution as part of the Pre-parole Investigation and provide information about the hearing date and place.
- Supervise offenders granted parole or released by diminution of sentence (a mandatory release based on law) for the remainder of their sentences—that is, until their full term dates.
- Enforce the Parole Board's rules of supervision. Only the Parole Board can set, change, or delete the conditions of supervision for parolees and diminution of sentence releases.
- Oversee collection of monthly restitution payments ordered by the Parole Board.
- Notify the board if a parolee falls behind by 60 days or more in making restitution payments. The board may then hold a hearing and order sanctions ranging from reprimand to revocation.

(Probation and Parole Officers have no role in determining when an offender is released from incarceration to supervision.)

Responsibilities of Offenders Under Supervision of the Division of Probation and Parole

- C Report to a specific district office within 48 hours of sentencing or release.
- C Secure the permission of their officers to leave the boundaries of the supervising district. Some districts consist of one parish; some, of several parishes.
- C Follow the rules imposed by the Court or the Parole Board.

Frequently Asked Questions

What can you tell me about restitution?

- C Law distinguishes between an offender's inability and an offender's refusal to make restitution payments.
- C Probation and Parole Officers are authorized by the Court or the Parole Board to collect specific amounts of restitution.
- C Restitution is seldom received in a lump sum. With the approval of the Court or the Parole Board, the Probation and Parole Officer will set up a payment schedule based on an offender's ability to pay and the length of time the offender will remain on supervision.
- C Only the Court or the Parole Board has the authority to revoke a person on supervision for refusing to pay restitution. One or two failed payments are not usually sufficient to lead the Court or the Parole Board to revoke or even admonish an offender.
- C When a probationer who has been ordered to make restitution is revoked and sent to prison, restitution payments do not automatically resume following release from prison.

Offenders are released from prison under the authority of the Parole Board, not the Court. Victims of revoked probationers should enlist the help of the Probation and Parole Officer to request the Parole Board to include a restitution condition when the offender is released from prison.

- C Restitution is not automatically made a condition when a parolee is returned to prison for violating conditions of release, then released again. Victims of revoked parolees should enlist the help of the Probation and Parole Officer to request the Parole Board to include a restitution condition when the offender is released again.
- C Restitution payments are received at a central collections unit in the form of a money order or cashier's check payable to the victim. Payments are recorded and forwarded to victims within 24 to 48 hours of receipt.

What about revocation of supervision?

- C Parole supervision is automatically revoked if an offender is sentenced for/convicted of a new felony. Probation may or may not be revoked for a new felony conviction.
- C Probation and Parole Officers are encouraged to apply alternative sanctions instead of moving immediately to suggest revocation—unless the offender's behavior suggests serious risk to a victim, the community at large, or the offender himself.
- C The decision to revoke belongs to the Court or the Parole Board, not the Probation and Parole Officer.

What about sex offenders?

- C Most sex offenders who are released to supervision have 21 days to contact law enforcement and to provide certain information (e.g., name, crime, residence) and a current photograph to the

following persons and agencies: persons living within a designated distance of their residence, designated newspapers in the parish of residence, the superintendent of the school board district in which they live, their landlords, and - if the victim was under 18 at the time of the crime - the superintendent of parks and recreation in the area of their residence.

- C Information about sex offenders under supervision in Louisiana is available at www.lasocpr.lsp.org. Contact the Division of Probation and Parole or area law enforcement if a sex offender who should be registered does not show there. Failure to register is a crime in itself.
- C Sex offenders can be ordered by the Parole Board to make restitution to victims who require counseling as a result of their victimization.

A Few More Facts About Probation and Parole

- C An important part of a Probation and Parole Officer's job is to support the offender's efforts to live responsibly in the community.
- C Probation and Parole Officers are limited in the type of information they can give out about offenders under supervision. Results of drug tests and medical records, for example, are not public record.
- C Probation and Parole Officers are commissioned peace officers with the authority to arrest probationers and parolees with or without a warrant.
- C Questions about a particular probationer or parolee should be directed to the supervising district.

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